

CLAIMS

[1] A navigation device, comprising:

an area input section for a user to input a name of an area
5 which neighbors a destination of the user;

a route searching section for searching for a route which
leads the user to the area whose name is inputted in the area input
section;

a first guidance section for providing the user with
10 guidance in accordance with the route found by the route searching
section so as to guide the user to the area whose name is inputted
in the area input section;

a destination specifying section for specifying, by
exchanging a dialogue with the user, the destination after the
15 guidance by the first guidance section starts;

a route selecting section for selecting a route to the
destination specified in the destination specifying section; and

a second guidance section for providing the user with
guidance so as to guide the user to the destination specified in
20 the destination specifying section.

[2] The navigation device according to the claim 1, wherein
the destination specifying section includes:

a question output section for generating and outputting a
25 question to which the user responds by selecting only one of two

options offered by the question; and

a response input section for the user to input therein his/her response with respect to the question outputted by the question output section; and

5 the destination specifying section specifies the destination in accordance with the response inputted by the user in the response input section.

[3] The navigation device according to claim 2, wherein the
10 question output section outputs to the user the question which is generated by the question output section preferably when a traveling speed of the user is below a predetermined value.

[4] The navigation device according to claim 2, wherein the
15 question outputted by the question output section, and the response inputted into the response input section are in audio.

[5] The navigation device according to claim 1, wherein
when a destination is not specified, the destination
20 specifying section sets, after deriving a current position of the user, a temporary destination based on the area whose name is inputted in the area input section and the current position which is derived by the destination specifying section; and

the route selecting section selects a route connecting the
25 current position to the temporary destination which is set by the

destination specifying section.

[6] The navigation device according to claim 5, wherein when there is a plurality of representative positions pre-assigned to the area whose name is inputted in the area input section, the destination specifying section selects, as a temporary destination, from among the plurality of representative positions a representative position nearest to a current position of the user derived by the destination specifying section.

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[7] The navigation device according to the claim 5, wherein when the route selecting section is able to execute a route selection, the destination specifying section continues to update the temporary destination until the route selecting section is able to execute the route selection.

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[8] The navigation device according to claim 1, wherein when there is a plurality of representative positions pre-assigned to the area whose name is inputted in the area input section, the route searching section searches for a route for each of the representative positions which are set in the area whose name is inputted in the area input section,

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the first guidance section provides the user with the guidance in accordance with each route found by the route searching section,

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the destination specifying section specifies one of the representative positions, which are set in the area whose name is inputted in the area input section, as a destination of the user, and

5 the route selecting section selects from among the plurality of routes found by the route searching section one route which leads the user to the destination specified by the destination specifying section.

10 [9] The navigation device according to claim 9, wherein the destination specifying section includes:

 a spot setting section for setting a spot as a spot to output a question, wherein the spot is determined by backing up toward the user as much as a predetermined distance from an
15 end spot of an overlapping portion between the plurality of routes found by the route searching section;

 a question output section for outputting to the user a question at the spot set by the spot setting section; and

 a response input section for the user to input a
20 response to the question outputted by the question output section,

 the destination specifying section specifies a destination of the user in accordance with the response inputted in the response input section.

25 [10] A navigation method, comprising:

an area acquisition step for acquiring in accordance with an input inputted by a user a name of an area which neighbors a destination of the user;

5 a route searching step for searching for a route which leads the user to the area whose name is acquired in the area acquisition step;

10 a first guidance step for providing the user with guidance, in accordance with the route found in the route searching step, so as to guide the user to the area whose name is acquired in the area acquisition step;

a destination specifying step for specifying, by exchanging a dialogue with the user, a destination of the user after the guidance by the first guidance step starts;

15 a route selecting step for selecting a route to the destination which is specified in the destination specifying step; and

a second guidance step for providing the user with guidance so as to guide the user to the destination specified in the destination specifying step.

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[11] A computer program for providing the user with guidance so as to guide the user to a destination of the user, comprising:

25 an area acquisition step for acquiring, in accordance with an input inputted by a user, a name of an area which neighbors a destination of the user;

a route searching step for searching for a route which leads the user to the area whose name is acquired in the area acquisition step;

5 a first guidance step for providing the user with guidance, in accordance with the route found in the route searching step, so as to guide the user to the area whose name is acquired in the area acquisition step;

10 a destination specifying step for specifying, by exchanging a dialogue with the user, a destination of the user after the guidance by the first guidance step starts;

a route selecting step for selecting a route to the destination which is specified in the destination specifying step; and

15 a second guidance step for providing the user with guidance, in accordance with the route selected in the route selecting step, so as to guide the user to the destination which is specified in the destination specifying step.

[12] The computer program according to claim 12, wherein the
20 computer program is stored in a recording medium.